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NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON MOVES PHIL DONAHUE SPEECH TO LARGER VENUE, TALK SHOW PIONEER RETURNS TO DAYTON TO PAY TRIBUTE TO BOMBECK

DAYTON, Ohio — It's a hot ticket.

The University of Dayton has moved the Friday, March 8, "An Evening with Phil Donahue" from the Kennedy Union Ballroom to the much-larger Frericks Convocation Center to accommodate a greater crowd.

At the 8 p.m. talk, the nine-time Emmy Award-winning TV talk show host will recall what it was like to come of age in Dayton, Ohio, when a president was assassinated and America lost a war. The evening wouldn't be complete without audience participation. The pioneer of the television talk show will take questions from the audience. Jim Baldridge, WHIO-TV anchor, will emcee the event.

The speech, part of the University of Dayton's Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop and Distinguished Speaker Series, is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. No tickets will be available at the door. For tickets, call 229-2545 or visit UD's box office in Kennedy Union from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, or 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Donahue also will participate in a sold-out Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop on Saturday, March 9, at the University of Dayton. Donahue and Bill Bombeck, Erma's widower, will talk about "The Erma We Knew and Loved" at a luncheon that will feature the launching of the virtual Erma Bombeck Museum. Then he will team up with Matt Bombeck, Erma's son who's a TV screenwriter, to offer a workshop on breaking into television writing.

Donahue's early career included both radio and television news in Dayton. While a news anchor at WHIO-TV in the 1960s, he distinguished himself as the host of a radio call-in show, "Conversation Piece." The radio program and his high-profile interviews with such newsmakers as John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Richard and Pat Nixon, Pete Rose and others brought him to the attention of Avco Broadcasting. The format he introduced on Nov. 6, 1967, as "The Phil Donahue Show" on WLWD-TV (now WDTN-TV) launched the first audience participation television talk show and changed the face of American daytime television.

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For more information, see <http://erma.udayton.edu>.

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